

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

The Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 20.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer for filing in a continuation application. Thus, claims 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 20 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed January 23, 2008, claims 2, 9 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 1, 8 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art described in the application (hereafter the PAA) in view of Yoshida et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,162,923 (hereinafter, "Yoshida"). Claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by PAA. Merely to facilitate allowance of the instant applicant, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12-15, 18 and 19 have been canceled, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

Accordingly, the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance of claims 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 20 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this

communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing client matter number 103213-00078.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox LLP



Michele L. Connell
Registration No. 52,763

Customer No. 004372
1050 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Telephone No. (202) 857-6104
Facsimile No. (202) 857-6395

MLC:cdw